

THE POST OFFICES OF HARRISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Harrison County's 310 square miles and 16,250 residents are in the northern end of Kentucky's Outer Bluegrass. The southern half of this predominantly agricultural county has a gently rolling terrain while the rest is mostly hilly. Cynthiana, its seat, lies thirty three road miles nne of downtown Lexington. The South Fork of the Licking River, which joins the main stream at Falmouth (some twenty miles north of Cynthiana), bisects the county in a roughly northerly direction, while the main Licking separates it on the northeast from Bracken County. Principal South Fork tributaries include Crooked Creek, which separates Harrison from Pendleton County, Snake Lick Creek, Raven Creek, Twin Creek, Curry Run, Mill Creek, Indian Creek, Grays Run, and Silas Creek, which forms Harrison's border with Bourbon County. Main Licking's key Harrison County branches are Richland , Harrison, and Beaver Creeks. These streams figured predominantly in the county's settlement history.

The first known settlement in what became Harrison County was near the future Lair Station. It was first called Hinkston's Station for Capt. John Hinkston who led a party to that site in the spring of 1775; it later became Ruddell's Station, but fell victim to an Indian attack in June 1780 and was not resettled till 1791.

The seventeenth county in order of formation, Harrison County was established by legislative act on December 21, 1793 from parts of Bourbon and Scott Counties and named for Col. Benjamin Harrison (ca. 1745-1808). Harrison, a Pennsylvania-born Revolutionary War veteran, had been the first sheriff and a magistrate of Bourbon County and was then representing that area in the Kentucky Legislature. From Harrison County's original territory land was taken to form all or part of seven other counties.

This chapter will treat only the forty four post offices contained within Harrison's present boundaries which were assumed in 1867 with the establishment of Robertson County.

In 1793 a log settlement opposite the mouth of Grays Run was laid out as the town of Cynthiana and, that December, became the seat of the new Harrison County. It was named for Cynthia and Anna, the young daughters of Robert Harrison, a local blacksmith, from whom the 150 acre original tract was acquired.¹ The post office has been in continuous operation since April 1, 1801 when James Coleman was appointed postmaster. Curiously, for its first nineteen years, the office's name was spelled Cinthiana. This, the county's largest town and its agricultural marketing center, is today a fourth class city of some 6,500 residents centering on the junction of US 27 and 62. In recent years, its industrial base has expanded from highly profitable whiskey distilling to metal parts fabrication and the manufacture of box sealing tapes.

The next post offices that may have been established in Harrison County are problematic. The location and history of both are unknown. A Georges post office is listed in old postal records as operating only in 1816. Several (probably) related families of George (Thomas W, William N, Gabriel, and Painach or Parnach) are mentioned in Harrison County's 1810 and 1820 Censuses.

A New Town post office is listed in Patera and Gallagher's Checklist of Kentucky's Post Offices and several early nineteenth century gazetteers as operating in Harrison County between 1816 and 1824, but its existence here or anywhere else has not been confirmed from county records.

Around 1800 Alexander Curran laid out a village at the mouth of Beaver Creek and named it Marysville for the wife of Benjamin Harrison. By this name its post office was established on June 11, 1816 with John Whitehead,

postmaster. In December 1821 the community was incorporated as Claysville, honoring Henry Clay, and this name was given to the post office in 1825. Until the railroad's arrival just before the Civil War, this was a major shipping point for much of the lower Licking Valley with boatyards, tobacco and cigar factories, and a tanyard. The post office closed in April 1917. Today little remains but a grocery, church, and some homes on and near US 62, just west of the main Licking and thirteen miles northeast of Cynthiana.

The crossroads community of Leesburg on US 62, half a mile north of Silas Creek and 10½ miles southwest of Cynthiana, was first settled by William Elliott Boswell (1770-1828) of Leesburg, Va. It was first known as Boswell's Crossroads, but its post office, established on February 22, 1817 with Boswell's son-in-law, the storkeeper, William Cogswell, as the first postmaster, was called Leesburgh. In this name the town was platted and chartered later that year. Boswell represented the county in the Kentucky Legislature from 1794 to 1806 and commanded a regiment in the War of 1812. By 1893, in conformance with the post office name simplification policy, the name had become Leesburg. The town's strategic location on the main road between Cynthiana and Georgetown (the seat of neighboring Scott Co) led to its prosperity as a trade and manufacturing town until the railroad attracted business elsewhere. The post office closed in December 1917, and now only a grocery and church serve the local population.

On what was once the main road between Lexington and Covington, on a hill overlooking the Licking River's South Fork, half a mile east, was another important antebellum trade center. It was chartered by the legislature on January 14, 1831 as Colemansville and named for either Robert S. Coleman, who then owned the land, or Whitehead and Frank Coleman who had run a nearby mill earlier in the century. The area's first post office had been estab-

lished two years before by John Smith as Mouth of Raven for its site on the road just below this stream's confluence with South Fork and just west of the future city of Berry. The post office was operated by Smith and his son Nathan in the living room of their home, Stony Castle, until February 1834 when the new postmaster, Jesse Miller, moved it one mile north to the Colemansville site. It remained Colemansville at or near the junction of the present Rts. 1054 and 1032, 12½ miles nnw of Cynthiana, till it closed in April 1878. Its economic decline was also occasioned by the routing of the railroad 1½ mile east and a disastrous wind storm in 1884. Only a store and church remain.

The first of the two Harrison County post offices called Robinson operated from May 22, 1832 to mid July of the following year. Its only postmaster was Benjamin Robinson for whom it was probably named. Its location, though, has not yet been determined. Was it at or near the site of the later Raven Creek post office? This too was established by a Benjamin Robinson, ^{on May 17, 1849,} though it is not known if these were the same person. The Raven Creek office is believed to have been on or near the North Fork of Raven and was operated till June 1863. John Scott, a postmaster from 1852 to 1855, is known to have had a store here right after the Civil War.

Asbury Broadwell (1791-1843), a prosperous Cynthiana merchant, had acquired some land between Cynthiana and Leesburg. In the early 1830s he built a store at the junction of the present US 62 and the Russell Cave Rd. (now Ky 353) and, on December 20, 1833, opened a post office there he named Broadwell. By the 1880s the store was gone and the post office, too, closed in September 1900. Only some homes and the Mt. Pleasant (Presbyterian) Church today mark the site.

A post office called Travellers Rest was established by Robert Rawlings on February 9, 1833 just north of Richland Creek in southeastern Pendleton County. On April 8, 1842, when Robert S. Haviland became postmaster, it was moved to the point where the creek crosses the Harrison County line, a mile up from the main Licking River. It was here that the New York City-born Haviland (1796-1858) had opened a store in 1832 and later a woolen and cotton factory, a saw and two grist mills, and started the town which he named Havilandsville for himself. The post office took this name too. By the 1850s the town had become an important industrial and trade center with meat packing and tobacco factories, and a landing on the river where locally produced goods were shipped to several national markets. After a number of short distance site changes following the Civil War, the post office closed in August 1926. Today this county line community, sixteen miles north of Cynthiana, is virtually extinct and is not even identified on published maps.

Another shortlived antebellum post office (from April 8, 1840 to October 1841) whose location has not been established was Ecklar's Mill. It was undoubtedly named for a mill that may have been on the main Licking, or at least its South Fork for, in 1808, one Hugh Newell is said to have built a flat boat here for a trip to New Orleans.² Only two men served as postmasters--William Holliday and Josephas Perrin, Jr. The Ecklars (or Ecklers--the spelling of their name seems to be interchangeable) have been a large and important Harrison County family descended from a German immigrant couple, Jacob and Susannah (Lemmon) Eckler who had settled there before 1800.

It is said that some Harrison County men, including a future magistrate, David Ross, returned from service in the Mexican War with the February 1847 Battle of Buena Vista fixed indelibly in their minds. Accordingly, this name was given to a post office on the present Ky 392, about one mile south and west of Beaver Creek and six miles ene of Cynthiana, that storekeepers Robert and William Smith operated from May 17, 1848 to January 1864. The name, in its typical Gringo pronunciation [byŭ/nə vihs/tə] was also given to the local precinct that was later called Sylvan Dell. The extant Republican (Christian) Church has occupied a nearby site since 1816.

The post office of Connersville was established on August 18, 1849 at the junction of the present Ky 32 and 1842, 7 3/4 mile west of Cynthiana. It and the small village that grew up around it were named for the local family of John H. Conner, the storekeeper and first postmaster. Though the office closed in March 1904, a couple of stores and a church still serve the local population.

An influential family of Currys, whose most notable member was James R. (1789-1884), a Cynthiana attorney and judge, gave its name to Curry Run, an eastside branch of Licking's South Fork. About 1/4 mile north of this stream and midway between the future post offices of Richland, Robertson's Station, and Avena was the Curry's Run post office, established by James Slade on September 24, 1849 and operated by him and William R. Epperson to December 1883. At least two stores, run by Samuel Slade and J.R. Brannock (who later moved to Kelat), served this vicinity in the 1870s. Nothing marks the site today.

An odd name for a community and its post office, but by no means unique, even in Kentucky,³ was Oddville. The first settlers of this site on the future US 62, some six miles nne of Cynthiana, were the family of Maryland-born John Whiteker (1752-1833), a Revolutionary War veteran and later Methodist preacher, who may have arrived here, by way of Bourbon County, just before 1800. For awhile the small settlement here was called Whiteker's, but when the time came for a post office, in 1851, the local storekeeper and John's grandson, Hezekiah McKenzie (Mac) Whiteker, requested it be called Franklin. According to Whiteker family recollections, the Post Office Department in vetoing Franklin (for it was already in use in Simpson County) suggested a unique or odd name instead. And Oddville it was.⁴

Another local tradition has it that Whiteker forwarded the Rev. J.C. Crow's request for Mt. Washington and was informed by the postal authorities that there were already too many Washingtons in the country; and that it was Crow who then suggested Oddville.⁵ The name, of course, also inspired the usually apochryphal explanation given for most of the other "Odd" named places in the country: "Well, it's an odd little place, let's call it Oddville."⁶ In any event, the post office served this thriving little mill and trade village from June 5, 1851 to September 1903. Here the county's first accredited high school was established in 1915. The community is now served by Whitaker's Market, several other businesses, and a Methodist church.

The village and post office of Rutland is said to have been named for someone's home town in Vermont. Perrin's history (P. 321) says it was F.M. Bailey, the first postmaster and second storekeeper. But according to postal records the first postmaster was the storkeeper John Mullen who came

from Virginia. The site was settled around 1848 when Meredith Collins, whose family had also come from Virginia, built the first home there and opened the first store which he later sold to Bailey. The only apparent Vermont-born resident of Harrison County by the time the post office opened, on July 6, 1852, was Bushnell Wiley, a forty four year old peddler, but where in the county he was then living is not known. The post office operated till April 1904 on the east side of Raven Creek's South Fork, 10½ miles wnw of Cynthiana.

At the head of Indian Creek, just north of where Nicholas, Bourbon, and Harrison Counties meet, and 6½ miles east of Cynthiana, pioneer John Scott early settled and established what became Scott's Station. Here the post office of Scott's Station was established on August 27, 1853 with storekeeper John S. Whaley as postmaster. This closed in December 1856. When Joseph Scott petitioned to reopen the office in 1875 he found Scott's Station then in use for a Shelby County post office and called his instead Shady Nook for the many local shade trees. The office became Shadynook in 1895. By 1914 the small village it served was still known as Scott's Station. A store and nearby church survived the post office's closing in 1933.

In 1851 construction began on what became the Covington and Lexington Railroad and was completed in the late winter of 1855/6. This became the Kentucky Central in 1875 which was acquired by the Louisville and Nashville in 1891. The first two of the six stations on this line to give rise to Harrison County post offices were Garnett's Station and Boyd's Station. The first, a mile southeast of Mill Creek's confluence with South Fork Licking and 6½ rail miles nnw of Cynthiana, was named for Thomas T. Garnett, the landowner and magistrate. Its post office operated

only from December 8, 1854 to March 1857 with Tandy Wigglesworth, its sole postmaster. Nothing marks the site today.

The Boyd's Station post office, which also opened on December 8, 1854, the village that grew up around it, and the station were on the site of Whitehead Coleman's Broad Ford Mill that had been built in 1810 on South Licking, just above the mouth of Snake Lick Creek, and fourteen rail miles nnw of Cynthiana. Thomas Boyd, who established the post office, named it and the station for Andrew Boyd, Sr. who had operated a distillery there in the early 1840s. In December 1880 the post office became merely Boyd, a name it continued to bear until it closed in 1957.

The next post office to be established was Robertsons Station which served the station of this name and a local mill at the mouth of Strattons Branch of South Licking, nine rail miles nnw of Cynthiana. The station and office are said to have been named for James Robertson, a local store-keeper and landowner. George W. Robertson was the first postmaster. The post office operated as Robertsons Station from June 2, 1855 till November 1882 when it became simply Robertson. By 1885 the station and community were known as Robinson, for another local family, and in June 1892 the post office too took this name, and kept it until it closed ninety years later. A store and church continue to serve the hamlet of Robinson.

Another railroad station, Berry, is now a sixth class city of some 240 residents with one of the county's two active post offices. Just below and opposite the mouth of Raven Creek, nearly midway between Boyd's and Robertson's Stations (twelve miles northwest of Cynthiana), it was laid out as ^{the} village of Berry's Station when the railroad acquired the station site from George W. Berry. Berry, a Virginian, had built his home there in 1836 and later opened a store. He also established the post office as Berry's Station on April 10, 1856. The town was incorporated in February 1867. In November 1880 the post office name was shortened to Berry.

The Covington and Lexington Railroad station-post office of Lairs Station occupied a site very close to the first known settlement in Harrison County. In the 1790s the Lair brothers, John and Matthew, Revolutionary War veterans from Virginia, built their homes near the ruins of Hinkston's (Ruddells) Station at the mouth of Woods Run (now Edgewater Branch) on the South Licking River, some four miles south of Cynthiana. The station was established in the mid 1860s and soon it and a village of some sixty families needed a post office. Lair's Station (sic) thus opened on April 14, 1860 with George W. Coons, postmaster. In 1882 it too became merely Lair. By the turn of the century this was still a fairly thriving town with several distilleries, flour mills, two stores, a hotel, and other businesses. The post office closed in May 1920. A couple of stores and two churches still serve the area south of Cynthiana.

The site of the future Poindexter station and post office on the west side of South Licking, just below the mouth of Sycamore Creek, had been settled by 1810 when Philip Keath is known to have run a saw mill there. Sometime before 1832, Virginia-born James Poindexter (1787-1865) took over the mill, opened a store and distillery, and soon founded the small community that took his name. The station was not established until the Kentucky Central took over the line in the mid 1870s. On May 8, 1876 Harry Martin, the local express agent and storekeeper, started the local post office as Poindexter. Today, the site, four rail miles north of Cynthiana, has a church, a horse training farm, and a few homes. The post office closed in 1932 and the store is long gone.

Peter L. Peterson most likely named his Paxton post office for the family of his wife Polly, the daughter of Pennsylvania-born Samuel Paxton, a resident of the Buena Vista (Sylvan Dell) Precinct before he moved to Ohio in the mid 1870s. The post office, which Peterson alone operated from January 13, 1865 to March 1874, has been located only imprecisely just east of Beaver Creek and ten miles northeast of Cynthiana.

The post office of Colville [kahl/vihl] was established in Bourbon County on May 6, 1867 with Henry H. Talbott, postmaster. It was discontinued in April 1870 but re-established by John Henry Dunnington on August 27, 1888 just over the Harrison County line, half a mile north of its original site. Here, on the present Ky. 32/36, 5½ miles east of Cynthiana. it remained till mid July 1910. The Colvilles, for whom both post offices were named, were one of two families that farmed for much of the nineteenth century in both counties.⁷

Nothing today but some rural homes marks the site of Smitsonville, a once notable mill village and trade center. This place with its livestock and tobacco dealers, distillery, wagon factories, and several mills was on the present US 62 and Little Beaver Creek, 8½ miles northeast of Cynthiana. Its post office was established on March 25, 1872 by Isaac C. Rose who probably named it for his neighbor, the local storekeeper, J.D. Smitson. The office closed in April 1902.⁸

The Richland Creeks and the northeast Harrison County precinct named for them also gave their name to the small village of Richland, where the present US 27 crosses Little Richland, thirteen miles north of Cynthiana. Though the village was so identified at least by 1865 in Hodgman's Gazetteer, it was not until July 10, 1872 that storekeeper

Lewis F. Shreve established the post office. But in December 1884 its papers were transferred to the newly established Kelat post office at the head of Little Richland. (see below)

Little Richland joins the main Richland Creek about one mile south of the Pendleton County line. Main Richland, which heads just north of Kelat, extends six miles to its confluence with Little Richland and then another $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast to the main Licking River, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the county line. The origin of the creek names is still unknown; no families of this name have been identified.

On the very day the Richland post office was established another office, Antioch Mills, opened $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north (where the present US 27 crosses the main Richland Creek, half a mile from the Pendleton County line). William W. Arnold was the first postmaster. The mills in its name were flour and saw mills that were operated by Alvin Sellers who had become postmaster in December 1873. The Antioch may have come from the local Christian church which was organized in 1848.⁹ By the end of the last century the post office (which was to close in July 1904) was called Antioch Mills while the community it served was merely Antioch. Contemporary maps continue to identify the small community, with church and store, as Antioch.

The inexplicably named Sylvan Dell post office was established on January 3, 1873 on the north side of Beaver Creek, some seven miles northeast of Cynthiana. This site had earlier been settled by Jacob Pope and his family. Robert Batson, the first postmaster, had the office in his store. In May 1894 the post office became Sylvandell and closed in July 1913. Though the community is gone its name is still applied to the local voting precinct.

Like Colville in the southeastern part of the county, the post office of Hinton, in the northwest, began in another county. When the Cincinnati ~~New-Orleans-and-Texas-Pacific~~ Southern (later the Cincinnati New Orleans and Texas Pacific, and then the Southern) Railway arrived at the site on the Scott-Harrison County line around 1876, it may have wanted to call its station and a new post office to serve it Butler for T.F. Butler, a stock trader and sawmill operator who lived just over the line in Harrison Co.¹⁰ Since by that time the Kentucky Central (later L&N) Railroad already had a Butler Station (and post office) several miles down the river, in Pendleton County, the new Scott County station and post office were given the name Hinton. This was for George W. Hinton, Butler's Harrison county neighbor and partner who had, by then, acquired considerable acreage in both counties. The post office opened on October 5, 1877 with Thomas Million, postmaster. The little town that soon grew up around the station straddled the county line. In July 1898 the post office was moved a short distance over the Harrison County line. By April 1900, however, postmaster Lewis R. Nelson had returned it to his Scott County store by the depot, 150 feet from the county line. But in January 1906 Nelson brought it back to Harrison County where it remained till it closed in 1966. Today, little marks the latter site, 15½ miles wnw of Cynthiana.

The community officially known as Breckinridge since 1890 was earlier called Trickum. At or near this site at the junction of the present Ky 32 and 1842, 6½ miles northwest of Cynthiana, was a stop on one of the well traveled routes between Lexington and Covington which, according to tradition, had become quite notorious for the deceptive practices of its local store. Travelers and local folks alike came to refer to the place as "where they trick 'um" or, simply, "Trickum". In the 1870s the community and its voting precinct were known as Unity, probably for the local church.¹¹

But Trickum was the name given to its first post office that operated between July 29, 1879 and January 1883. In 1890 Robert L. Clifford, one of the two local storekeepers, re-established the office as Breckinridge. It closed at the end of 1909. Though identified on contemporary maps as Breckinridge, most county residents still refer to the small community as Trickum.¹²

From January 19, 1880, when John T. Kenady became postmaster, to February 1904, the inexplicably named post office of Branch served the Harrison County hamlet of Durbintown, two miles north of Colemansville. The community is said to have been named for a local blacksmith shop run by Frank Pogue's freed slave, Durbin.¹³ The community's surviving institution, the Riverview Church, overlooks South Fork Licking, 500 feet east.

On August 1, 1881 Peregrine Phillips established the post office of Venus at a site about half a mile from the Salem Christian Church and 7½ miles northeast of Cynthiana. The name he first proposed for this office was Hall for Venus Hall, who was probably also the source of its chosen name. The small mill village it was to serve (to July 1904) may then have been called Phillips and/or Routts^{burg}ville. Postmaster-designate Phillips himself referred to the community as Phillips in his Site Location Report of July 14, 1881. Perrin referred to the settlement of Routtsburg centered on L.D. Routt's store near the Salem Church. T.D. Routt replaced Phillips as Venus's postmaster in November 1881. Some people today identify this rural neighborhood as Salem for the local church organized in 1854.

Avena [ə/vee/nə] was the name given to a post office near the head of Harrison Creek, some nine miles nne of Cynthiana. With William O. Florence its first postmaster, it was established on May 20, 1882 and closed in July 1908. Its name source has never been found; that the name was given to a railroad station near Stockton, California in the early 1890s and refers to a nearby field of wild oats (Avena is the Spanish word for oats) is of little help.¹⁴

The crossroads hamlet of Sunrise on Rt.1284, some 3½ miles north of Avena, was first called Bunker Hill and may also have been known as Pughville. The latter name derived from the local family of George M. Pugh (1809-1875). These names were apparently overlooked for the post office established by James P. Hill in the summer of 1882. Instead, legend has it, a postal official visiting the site suggested the name for the "prettiest sunrise I ever saw." Two stores and a Christian church have survived the post office's closing in 1943.

In 1873 James R. Brannock moved his store from the Curry Creek area to a site, some two miles north, then known as Fairview for the extant local Baptist church. Applying for a post office in 1884 Brannock found that name and two others he submitted already in use and asked T.J. Smith, the local school teacher, to suggest a unique name. He was offered Kelat [kee/laet] for an obscure town in Baluchistan (now a part of Pakistan), and in this name the office opened on March 20, 1884 with Jeb M. Kenady, the first postmaster of record. After several local site changes, the office closed in April 1905. The Brannock store remains at its original site across Rt. 1032 from the Fairview Church (1½ miles west of US 27 and 10 3/4 miles north of Cynthiana).

First postmaster and storekeeper John Newton Renaker gave his family's name to the Renaker post office [rehn/ə/kər] established on February 18, 1886 to serve a crossroads hamlet on the present Ky 36, just east of the South Fork of Raven and 9½ miles northwest of Cynthiana. John Newton was one of the many descendants of Adam Renaker (ne ca. 1772), a Marylander who settled on one of the Twin Creeks in the 1790s. The post office closed in May 1906 but a store and church still serve the rural neighborhood.

The thickly settled rural neighborhood around the Beaver Baptist Church (organized 1809), half a mile east of Beaver Creek, and 9 3/4 miles northeast of Cynthiana, was served from February 29, 1888 to August 1906 by the Baptist post office. Local storekeeper John Thomas McCauley was its only postmaster.

(1876-1890),

The Scottish-born US Senator from Kentucky/ James Burnie Beck is known to have been the name source of the Beckton post office in Barren County (1883-1903). Could his name also have been given to the short lived (July 18, 1888 to January 1880) Beckboro post office in Harrison County? There were no local Becks for whom it could have been named. This post office, operated only by John Edwin Bryson, was at or near the junction of the present Ky 36/32 and 1940, 3¼ miles east of Cynthiana, at what is given as Jones Shop on current state highway maps.

The small village of Leeslick on Mill (~~Creek~~) Creek, midway between Leesburg and Connersville, and 9½ miles southwest of Cynthiana, has been traced back at least to 1835. That's when John Scott opened the first store there by a white sulphur spring, early a favorite watering place of wild animals and the Indians that hunted them. The spring was referred to as Lee's Lick before 1800, traditionally commemorating a pioneer

settler named Lee who was killed by an Indian in that vicinity.¹⁵ The Leeslick post office served the community from July 19, 1888 through July 1901. Miss Cynthe McDaniel was its first postmaster.

On November 13, 1890 Alex Barnes established the Selma post office between the two forks of Twin Creek, probably on the present Ky 356, 6½ miles wnw of Cynthiana. This was to serve W.W. Renaker's country store. It has not been learned who Selma was nor why Barnes may have first proposed the name Terryhaut for his office. It closed in 1905 and nothing marks the site today.

At a country store somewhere between Selma and the future Alberta was the shortlived McLoney post office which its only postmaster and probable name source, Nathaniel T. McLoney, operated from November 28, 1890 through the following August.

John Dunaway gave his family's name to the Dunaway post office when he established it at the junction of the present Ky 32 and 1032, 14½ miles northwest of Cynthiana. It operated from March 11, 1892 through October 1903.

Between the two forks of Twin Creek Albert S. Crossthwait estblished the last of Harrison County's post offices. He called Alberta and he and his wife Lucy ran it from May 8, 1897 to March 1904. At some time after 1900 the office, or at least the settlement that still bears this name, may have been moved about 1½ miles west to the vicinity of Boyers Chapel on the Scott County line where it is shown on contemporary maps.

Of Harrison County's forty four post offices only Cynthiana's and Berry's are still active, serving the county's only currently incorporated communities. Twenty one served villages, few of which survive as such; the others were centers of rural neighborhoods or smaller settlements around local stores, mills, or stations.

Twenty two offices were named for local/area persons or families while three were named for famous non-local persons. Four were named for distant places while to seven were transferred the names of nearby features (streams, springs, churches, and mills). Two had other geographic referents. One may have been named for a local event or condition, and another was "oddly" named per Post Office Department instructions. The origin of five post office names are as yet unknown, while eight offices have not yet been precisely located.

The names of seven post offices were not those originally proposed for them. At least seven served communities that had (or still have) names other than those of their post offices. Eight offices had name-changes. Seven offices were discontinued in the first decade of the twentieth century, six in 1904 alone.

Note: The offices are located by road miles from Cynthiana's post office.

FOOTNOTES

1. No relationship between Robert and Benjamin Harrison has been established.
2. Virgil Peddicord, Cynthiana Since 1790, Cynthiana, 1986, P. 166
3. Odds post offices operated in Knox County in 1891 and Johnson County from 1897 to 1948.
4. Letter from Prof. J. Russell Whitaker of Nashville, Tenn., April 29, 1983. According to Prof. Whitaker, some descendants of Hezekiah had the spelling of the family's name changed to Whitaker to conform to its pronunciation.
5. "Whitakers Settled Oddville Community" Cynthiana Democrat, Celebration Edition, August 7, 1969, I P. 8:6-8

6. J. Russell Whitaker of Nashville, Tenn., in a letter to Prof. John Leighly of Berkeley, Cal. and forwarded to me on April 6, 1983
7. According to Perrin's history (P. 740), William Colvill (sic) moved to Harrison County with his parents from their native Pennsylvania in 1790 while a Virginian, John Colville (1778-1835) settled in Bourbon County in 1800. By 1879 John's son, Samuel had become the Harrison County Assessor.
8. In Polk's 1879 Kentucky Gazetteer and Business Directory, this name was incorrectly spelled Smithsonville, while Perrin spelled it Smithsville.
9. Though the extant church is today called the Antioch Mills Christian Church, it is not named at all in mid nineteenth century records.
10. Beer's 1877 map of Harrison County actually shows a Butlers Station post office at this site.
11. Some unknown historian once suggested that Unity was applied to the precinct to express some patriotic sentiment of cooperation among the voters.
12. Similarly named was the small community and post office (1879-1958) of Trickham in Coleman County, Texas whose storekeeper, Tom Peters, is said to have had a penchant for practical jokes. (Fred Tarpley, 1001 Texas Place Names, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1980, Pp. 210-11)
13. The Durbins were also a prominent white family in the Beaver Creek-Claysville area.
14. Erwin G. Gudde, California Place Names, Berkeley: University of California Press, 3rd Edition, 1969, P. 17

15. William Henry Perrin, History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Ky., Chicago: O.L. Baskin, 1882

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4. Burgan, Christine and Mrs. Floyd Barnes, Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library, interviewed by the writer on November 12, 1977
5. Harrison Heritage Edition of the Cynthiana Democrat, July 11, 1974 passim.
6. Haviland, Sidney R. in the Cynthiana Democrat, reproduced in the Louisville Times, November 24, 1931
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Sect. III

Harrison Co. communities

- *1. Cynthiana (co. seat) (C)
- *2. Claysville (dpo) Had been Marysville (com) X
- *3. Leesburg (com. & dpo) ← Berwells xRds. (C)
- *4. Colemansville (dpo) had been Mouth of Raven (com) (C)
5. Robinson's (dpo) ~~del~~
- *6. Broadwell (dpo) (com) X
7. ~~Esthers~~ Mill (dpo) Echlers
- *8. Havilandsville (dpo and com) had been Travellers Rest (C)
- *9. Buena Vista (dpo and com)
10. Raven Creek (dpo)
- *11. Connersville (dpo) (com) X
12. Curry's Run (dpo) Curry ngrbr.
- *13. Oddville (dpo and com) (C)
- *14. Rutland (dpo) (com)
- ~~15. Scotts Station (dpo)~~
- *16. ~~Boyd's Station (dpo)~~ Boyd's Station (dpo) had been Boyd's Station (C)
- *17. ~~Gunnell's Station (dpo)~~ Gunnell's that it was R. Sta.
- *18. ~~Robertson's Station~~ Robinson (po & com) had been Robertson; before (C)
- *19. Berry (po and com) had been Berry's Station (C)
- *20. Lair (dpo and com) had been Lair's Station (C)
- *21. Paxton (dpo)
- *22. Smitsonville (dpo)
- *23. Richland (dpo)
24. Antioch Mills (dpo) (com)
25. Sylvan Dells (dpo) now spelled Sylvandell (com)
- *26. Shady Nook (dpo) (spelled Shadynook now) (com) ← Scott's sta. X
- *27. Poindexter (com and dpo) X
- *28. ~~Trickman (?)~~ (dpo) Trickum
- ~~29. Branch (dpo)~~
30. Venus (dpo) (com)
31. Avena (dpo) (com)
- *32. Sunrise (dpo) (com) (C)
- *33. Kelat (dpo) (com) (C)
- *34. Renaker (dpo) (com) X
- *35. Baptist (dpo)
36. Beechboro (dpo) = Beckboro
- *37. Leeslick (dpo) (com) X
- *38. Colville (dpo) (com) X
- * 28 39. Breckinridge (dpo) (com) X aka Trickum
40. Selma (dpo)
- *41. McLoney (dpo)
- *42. Dunaway (dpo) (com)
43. Alberta (dpo) (com)
- *44. Hinton (dpo) (com) X
- 45. Stringtown Ngbr.
- *46. Durbintown (com) ← Branch (COP)
- 47. Beaver Baptist Ngbr.
- 48. Little Harrison Ngbr.
- 49. Dutch Chapel Ngbr.
50. Hells Halfacre (com)
- 51. Salem Ngbr.
- 52. White Oak Ngbr.
- 53. Corinth Ngbr.
- 54. Colbys Store (com)
55. Belmont (com)
- *55. Rountsburg (com)
- *56. Marysville (COP) → 2.

(C) = sample reserved.

ngbr = 7 (excluded)

NT = 47